

CITY OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

SPRING 2014

In this issue:

5-Year Plan Update

Convention Center Hotel

City Greenhouse

Northern Waterfront Park

2014-15 City Budget

Long-term growth plan

Over last several months, the city has been seeking input for a long-term growth plan. Here are the highlights of what we've heard so far:

What we like:

- Parks, trails, bike paths
- Livable neighborhoods
- Neighborhood businesses

What we want more of:

- Parks, trails, bike paths
- Slower neighborhood traffic
- Safe streets and neighborhoods
- Mixed use and neighborhood retail development

You're invited....

Create Wilmington Drop-in

Drop-in to review results of the 12 Neighborhood Planning Area meetings held across the city over the last several months.

Saturday, May 10, 2014

10 am–12 pm

New Hanover County Library,
NE Branch
1241 Military Cutoff Road

Get more info anytime:
createwilmington.com

Give input anytime:
connectwilmington.org

City wraps up community conversations on youth violence

The City of Wilmington has completed a series of community conversations about gun and youth-related violence and the final report is now available for review from the public. From November to February, seven community meetings were held on a variety of topics to get input from citizens and to highlight resources that are already available in the community to address these issues.

Several key agencies partnered with the city to host meetings at different locations with several hundred citizens participating in total. Recurring themes from the meetings:

- Change needs to occur quickly to reduce violence and many residents expressed willingness to help;
- Many resource providers exist in the community and these resources need to be better matched with the needs of at-risk youth and their families;
- For change to be effective, the community as a whole must focus on results and how to make those results happen.

The report includes a series of recommendations for consideration by public policy makers, including elected officials, leaders of private corporations and non-profits.



Last community conversation held at MLK Jr. Community Center in February

Citizen Input Meeting

Give feedback on the final report:

Tuesday, April 29
5:30 pm at City Hall
102 N. 3rd Street

Review the report and give your input: wilmingtonnc.gov/youthviolence

Construction of last remaining section of Cross-City Trail now underway



The city is on schedule to complete one of the last remaining sections of the Gary Shell Cross-City Trail this summer. This section will stretch 1.3-miles from JEL Wade Park, along Bethel Road, Waltmoor Road and down South 17th Street to connect with the existing Cross-City Trail at John D. Barry Drive.

The \$2.4 million project, which began last December, includes drainage improvements currently underway, street repaving and pedestrian signals and crosswalks installed at Waltmoor and College roads. A portion of the project is funded through BCBSNC's Get Outside North Carolina! initiative (GO NC!). The project is expected to be complete in July.



Work on Rose Avenue, Park Avenue.

5-year maintenance improvement plan making progress

Almost 13 lane-miles of roadway were paved last year as part of the city's 5-year plan. In order to minimize disruptions and to keep costs low, the city is coordinating paving projects with the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority (CFPUA) and the Gary Shell Cross-City Trail project currently underway. More than 14 lane-miles of streets are expected to be paved by the end of 2014:

- Cardinal Drive
- Clear Run Drive
- Lennon Drive
- 17th Street at College Road
- Waltmoor Road
- Bethel Road
- Morningside Drive
- Woodlawn Avenue
- Masonboro Sound Road
- 30th Street

The city is currently working with CFPUA to coordinate the following projects, several of which may begin over the next several months: 41st Street, Racine Drive, Covil Avenue, Darlington Avenue, Floral Parkway, Audubon Boulevard, Greenville Loop Road, RL Honeycutt Drive, Donald E. Gore Drive, Semmes Drive, Peachtree Avenue and the Wrightsville/Greenville Avenue intersection. This coordination is essential so that recently paved roads are not dug up again for pipe replacement.

 wilmingtonnc.gov/5yearplan

Convention Center hotel approved; legal challenge to land sale scheduled

In February, the Wilmington City Council approved formal agreements for the sale of land and construction of a privately owned \$33.6 million hotel next to the Wilmington Convention Center. As proposed, the hotel will be a full service, 186-room Embassy Suites. The city's agreement also outlines the hotel's paid access of the public convention center parking deck adjacent to the hotel.

The agreement calls for the city to sell the land to a private developer at the established (2007 appraised value) price. The sale is being challenged by another local hotel, but the city anticipates a swift and favorable resolution. The appeal is set to be heard by a Superior Court judge in late May.





Construction of the hotel is expected to begin late this summer and be completed in the summer of 2015. The hotel will include meeting space, a full service restaurant with room service and a pool.

The city has been working on finalizing an agreement to build a hotel next to the convention center because it will attract more conventions and increase the number of people staying in downtown Wilmington overnight. The hotel is expected to stimulate further economic development, such as new jobs and additional tax revenue along the northern riverfront.

The construction and operation of the convention center is funded by a dedicated room occupancy tax (ROT) paid by visitors who stay in area hotels. Property tax dollars are not used for construction or operations of the center. By state law, ROT funds dedicated to the Convention Center can only be used for the construction and operation of this center.



HOTEL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

-  \$6.4 million in property and sales tax revenues for the city over the next 10 years*
-  Jobs during hotel construction: 346**
-  Jobs when hotel in operation: 207 jobs**
(155 of those direct hotel jobs with an average wage of \$13.02 an hour)
-  Hotel gross revenues for first five years of operation: \$5.7-\$6.2 million annually**

*City of Wilmington estimates

**Hotel developer estimates

 wilmingtonnc.gov/conventioncenter

City greenhouse grows plants, saves money



The city has several trained horticulturists and other staff who keep the city's parks and public spaces blossoming with flowers of all kinds and colors, especially during the spring. These personnel take care of 537 acres in 41 locations throughout the city, including 34 public parks. You can see their work at Greenfield Lake Park, Empie Park, Halyburton Park, City Hall and small pocket parks throughout the city, just to name a few.

The city horticulture staff saves the city money by using the greenhouse to grow multiple plants from a single plant, and by growing plants from seeds. They focus on hearty plants that can withstand the heat and humidity of our region.



City greenhouse.



Plans underway for the new Northern Waterfront Park



Contractors are currently cleaning and grading the 6.63 acre site of the future park located on the northern downtown waterfront. Citizen input for the design and development of the park will take place later this spring and summer. When complete, the park will provide open space along the waterfront, including space for special events, both of which are called for in the Vision 2020 plan for downtown and the Wilmington Parks, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan.



Summer CAMPS, SUMMER FUN

Learn about spring and summer recreation programs at:

wilmingtonrecreation.com
empiepark.com
halyburtonpark.com

 Like us on Facebook
facebook.com/wilmingtonrecreation



City budget being developed

The recommended budget for fiscal year 2014-15 is currently being developed and is expected to be finalized by May. Top budget priorities this year include funding for employee pay increases and funding for a full year of public safety enhancements that have been added to the budget over the last several months.

Also included will be a recommendation to maintain funding for the 5-year infrastructure improvement plan, as well as continued funding for all core services.

KEY DATES:

May 6	Recommended Budget Presented to City Council
May 20	Public Hearing
June 3	First Vote on Budget
June 17	Final Vote on Budget



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Wilmington, NC 28402

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Public Information Report

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Communications Office, P.O. Box 1810,
Wilmington, NC 28402-1810

General Information Phone Numbers

Citizen Services Information341-7800
Emergency911
Police/Non-Emergency343-3600

To find the police district assigned to your neighborhood,
see wilmingtonnc.gov/police

Fire/Non-Emergency341-7846
Parks and Recreation341-7855
Parks Hotline341-7852
Street Maintenance341-7879
Parking762-5678
Zoning254-0900
Trash pickup/Recycling341-7875
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Cape Fear Public Utility Authority332-6550
Code Enforcement341-3266

Look for the  for information

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In an effort to save money and trees, citizens
can sign up to receive this newsletter by email
instead of direct mail. If you are interested,
please email the city with your name and
regular mailing address to:

newsletter@wilmingtonnc.gov

City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are generally held on
the first and third Tuesday of the month at
6:30 p.m. at City Hall. For more information,
see the city's web site at: wilmingtonnc.gov

City Council Meetings on GTV8

Council meetings are broadcast live on GTV8,
the city channel on Timewarner Cable. Council
meetings are replayed:

- ~ Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, the week of
the Council meeting at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- ~ Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, the week after
the Council meeting at 11:30 p.m.

This Week From City Hall

Catch a summary of city events and activities on
GTV8's "This Week From City Hall," airing twice
daily at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. New episodes are
available monthly.

GTV8 online

All GTV8 programming can be found on the city's
website, live or on-demand. From the front page,
simply click on "online videos." Then, select the
program you want to watch.



The city on the web
wilmingtonnc.gov



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